

Applicant: DeWolf et al.
Serial No. 09/740,568
Filed: December 18, 2000
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of February 1, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for recording information related to assets throughout a life cycle of the asset whereby a record of ownership of an asset is created and managed, the method comprising:

assigning a unique identifier to an asset ;

recording information related to the asset in an electronic asset registry, wherein the information is associated with the unique identifier;

categorizing the information related to the asset into multiple attributes;

managing read and write privileges to the electronic asset registry for a plurality of entities wherein the managing of read and write privileges is accomplished using one or more processors or computer devices; and

providing access to asset attributes to entities that have an interest in the asset, wherein an entity having write privileges for a first attribute of the asset can write data related to a change in the first attribute of the asset to the asset registry, and an entity having read privileges for a second attribute of the asset can read data related to the second attribute.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein information related to the asset is recorded over the entire life cycle of the asset.

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3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information related to the asset is recorded for only a portion of a life cycle of the asset.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the asset includes multiple components.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the information related to the asset includes data corresponding to each component part.
6. (cancelled)
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the asset is a multi-vendor asset.
8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the information related to the asset includes data corresponding to each sub-asset and data identifying each vendor providing a sub-asset.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information related to the asset includes data identifying a manufacturer of the asset.
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information related to the asset includes documents associated with the asset.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the documents consist of at least one of the following: parts lists, warranties, service agreements, user manuals, insurance, licenses or contracts, or specifications.

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15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the asset is a physical asset.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the asset is a financial asset.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the asset is a digital object.

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the digital object is is an image, audio program, video program, copyrighted asset, or a work of art.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the entities having an interest in the asset communicate with the asset registry over an electronic network.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the network is the Internet.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the unique identifier ~~may be~~ is an already existing designator or ~~is may be~~ is newly created.

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the current~~ an owner of the asset manages the read and right privileges and the owner may transfer the managing of the read and right privileges to another entity.

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28. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data recorded comprises further comprising recording and storing data related to one or more transactions pertaining to the asset.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein a transaction effects either a change in status of the asset~~ wherein said data related to one or more transactions comprises data related to a change in ownership of an asset or a change in value of the asset.

30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said data related to one or more transactions ~~the transaction effecting a status change is data related to~~ one or more of the following: change of ownership or change in the value, buying, selling, repairing, appraising, insuring, financing, registering, maintaining, modifying, or disposing of the asset.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein one of said transactions pertaining to the asset includes electronic financial payments pertaining to the asset.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein one of said transactions pertaining to the asset involves the use of credit cards, debit cards, or other consumer credit systems.

34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein one of said transactions pertaining to the asset involves business to business exchanges that rely on commercial credit systems.

36. (cancelled)

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~~37.~~ (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein ~~the~~ a change in status of an asset is initiated by one or more of said transactions. ~~which further alter the status of the asset.~~

38. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~28~~9, wherein one entity ~~initiates a~~ of said transactions is initiated by one entity, and another entity receives a notice of the transaction automatically via the registry.

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)

~~42.~~ (currently amended) The method of claim 29 ~~37~~, wherein ~~effecting~~ a status change ~~to~~ of an asset requires results in documents pertaining to the asset or transaction being recorded to be recorded into the registry.

43. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~37~~29, wherein a change in status of an asset automatically adjusts at least one read or write privilege pertaining to at least one entity.

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the various~~ entities include at least the manufacturers or vendor, and the purchaser of the asset.

47. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~28~~29, wherein documentation pertaining to the asset is generated in support of or as a result of a transaction and said documentation is stored and recorded in the registry.

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48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the documentation includes at least one or more of the following: purchase orders or receipts, maintenance receipts, appraisals, inspections, mortgages, promissory notes, warranties, insurance binders, and registrations.

49. (cancelled)

50. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the read and write privileges are ~~can be~~ changed during the life cycle of the asset.

51. (original) The method of claim 50, wherein an owner of the asset manages the read and write privileges.

52. (previously presented) A system for recording information related to an asset and providing access to the information to interested parties the system comprising:

an electronic asset registry for recording information related to the asset; and for categorizing the information into various attributes;

an electronic interface for managing read and write privileges to a plurality of entities having an interest in the asset; and

an electronic interface for providing access to various attributes to a plurality of entities, wherein an entity having write privileges for a first attribute of the asset can write data related to a change in the first attribute of the asset, and an entity having read privileges for a second attribute of the asset can read data related to the second attribute.

53. (cancelled)

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54. (previously presented) The system of claim 52, wherein one of said electronic interfaces is accessed via an electronic network.

55. (previously presented) A system for recording information related to an asset and providing access to the information to interested entities, the system comprising:

means for recording information related to the asset;

means for categorizing the information into various attributes;

means for managing read and write privileges to entities having an interest in the asset; and

means for providing access to the various attributes of the asset to the entities having an interest in the asset, wherein an entity having write privileges for a first attribute of the asset can write data related to a change in the first attribute of the asset, and an entity having read privileges for a second attribute of the asset can read data related to the second attribute.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein the means for recoding information records information related to changes in status of the asset.

57. (original) The system of claim 55, wherein the means for recording information records information related to transactions that have an effect on the asset.

58. (original) The system of claim 57, wherein the means for recording information records documents related to the transactions.

59. (original) The system of claim 57, wherein the means for recording information records information related to the entities participating in the transactions.

60. (original) The system of claim 55, wherein the means for recoding information records information related to the entities having an interest in the asset.

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61. (original) The system of claim 57, wherein the means for providing access to the various attributes of the asset includes means for authenticating the entity desiring access.

62. (cancelled)

63. (cancelled)

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the various entities comprise entities from at least two different organizations, each organization having different legal or financial interests in the asset.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein an asset is anything that can be legally owned and for which ownership can be legally transferred.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the attributes is legal ownership.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the information recorded includes ownership and other legal interest information pertaining to an asset.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the entities, in addition to the owner or producer of the asset, is an insurer of the asset, financier of the asset, or seller of the asset.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the asset is an automobile or other vehicle.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein the interested entities includes: at least one of the manufacturer, distributor, or reseller of the vehicle, and the purchaser of the vehicle.

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71. (currently amended) An electronic asset record ~~created for~~ or resulting from the method of claim 1, said asset record being stored on a computer readable medium and being readable by one or more processors allowing said processors to grant read or write access privileges.

72. (cancelled)

73. (cancelled)

74. (previously presented) The asset record of claim 71 wherein the asset record comprises information indicating the manufacturer of the asset.

75. (cancelled)

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the entire lifecycle includes the production of the asset, the sale of the asset, and at least one ownership changes in the asset.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein a portion of the lifecycle of the asset does not include the production or initial sale of the asset.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the various entities further include at least an insurer of the asset or a financier or lien-holder of the asset.

79. (previously presented) The system of claim 52 wherein the plurality of entities comprise entities from at least two different organizations, each organization having different legal or financial interests in the asset.

80. (cancelled)

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81. (previously presented) The system of claim 52 wherein one of the entities, in addition to the owner or producer of the asset, is an insurer of the asset, financier of the asset, or seller of the asset.

82. (previously presented) The system of claim 52 wherein the asset is an automobile or other vehicle.

83. (previously presented) The system of claim 52 wherein the interested entities includes: at least one of the manufacturer, distributor, or reseller of the vehicle, and the purchaser of the vehicle.

84. (currently amended) ~~An asset record created by the~~ The system of claim 52 further comprising an electronic asset record, said asset record being stored on a computer readable medium and being readable by one or more processors to grant read or write access privileges to entities having an interest in an asset.

85. (currently amended) One or more computer-readable memories containing one or more computer programs, sub-programs or instructions that is executable by one or more processors or computers ~~to perform~~ that performs the method recited in claim 1.

86. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~55~~ 52 wherein the means for recording and categorizing asset information and for managing read and write access privileges to said data is embodied on one or more computer-readable memories containing one or more computer programs, sub-programs or instructions that are executable by one or more processors or computers.

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87. (currently amended) One or more computer readable memories collectively containing a dimensional or object database data structure ~~for recording and categorizing~~ comprising recorded and categorized information related to assets, and ~~for managing~~ read and write privileges or access to the asset information, produced by the method of claim 1 comprising:

- an asset identification table or object containing a unique identifier for each asset ;
- an asset attribute table or object containing categorized asset attributes; and
- one or more privilege or access tables or objects for each asset that represent for each asset, the access privileges of entities to information pertaining to that asset stored in said database structure, wherein said privilege or access table or objects are readable and utilized by one or more processors or computers to grant read and write privileges to entities.

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the recording information related to an asset and the providing access to asset attributes to entities that have an interest in the asset is accomplished using one or more processors or computer devices

89. (previously presented) One or more computer-readable media having thereon computer or processor executable instructions for recording information related to an asset and managing access to the information to interested parties, comprising instructions for :

- recording information related to the asset, wherein the information is associated with a unique identifier;